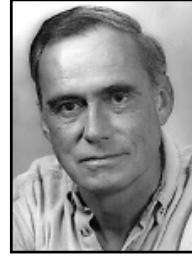


Happy birthday to us! The *Hanford Reach* turns 12

A caller to the *Hanford Reach* office asked recently if we could find an article that was written in about 1987. Sadly, I had to inform the caller that the *Reach* wasn't being published then — that the story must have been in some other Hanford publication. But the request did remind me that this newspaper is an institution that many people think has been on site forever.



**Commentary
by
Dennis Cresswell**
Editor, the *Hanford Reach*

Fact is, the first issue of the *Reach* was published for Westinghouse Hanford Company just 12 years ago, on Nov. 5, 1990. Until then, there were plenty of other employee news vehicles that may have carried the requested 1987 article. In fact, the *Reach* replaced 22 other employee publications serving the various projects and special interests. Westinghouse Hanford top managers had begun referring to the projects as “fiefdoms” — meaning that, in spite of the consolidation of the Hanford contracts under Westinghouse some years earlier, employees didn't seem to be thinking or communicating as one company.

So the *Reach* became part of that effort to get Hanford workers to pull together and share information. We learned about each other's jobs and how we each contributed to the new environmental mission. Cleanup efforts became more visible to more people, and routine information about meetings, classes and recreational activities became easier to find.

Our scope kept expanding, first to include architecture/construction contractor Kaiser Engineers, and then to serve the entire site beginning in 1994. We've been through the ups and downs of Hanford employment, the uncertainties over Hanford budgets and the transitions to new contractors. A lot has changed here in 12 years.

Changes and reductions in our own staff have occurred as well. In fact, you could say that the only constant in a dozen years of publishing the *Hanford Reach* is... me! I chaired the committee that created the paper in 1990, and for better or worse, I'm still here.

If you need to find a past article, all issues from the beginning are in bound volumes in the DOE Reading Room on WSU Tri-Cities campus — but don't look for anything from 1987. ■



**Owen Berglund of Fluor Hanford
reads an ALARA article in the
Hanford Reach, Oct. 21.**